



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

unity, solidarity, universality

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To all members of UIC

Moscow, March, 28 2013

MESSAGE FROM UIC CHAIRMAN VLADIMIR YAKUNIN

Dear UIC members! Dear colleagues!

First of all I would like to thank all members of the International Union of Railways and the employees of its Headquarters for the trust that you provided with regard to my nomination for the post of Chairman of one of the world's most respected international transport organizations, established more than 90 years ago.

No other international transport organization can boast of such a rich history. That is why the roadmap of my chairmanship will be defined by the loyalty to the traditions and principles which were used by the prominent railway sector representatives who chaired UIC.

During the recent years we have witnessed dramatic changes caused by globalization, world economic crisis, the onrush of electronic technologies, security challenges and other processes. These problems stimulate us to look for new approaches to increasing the competitiveness of railway transport and its further integration into the systems of international trade and tourism.

With account for this the **main goals of my chairmanship** will be the increase of effectiveness of UIC for its members – railway companies of the world and strengthening its authority as a respected global professional organization on the international arena.

Three principles which will be the base for the relationship of the Chairman and UIC members and headquarters, other international organizations and business community, as well as public representatives and mass media, are:

- **Openness** at any time for any important problems for a constructive dialog with all members of UIC and heads of other international organizations,
- **Transparency** based on the accessibility of the information about the work of UIC Chairman and also the availability of feedback to all UIC members, international organizations and mass media,
- **Involvement**, meaning practical input from the Chairman, where possible, in solving of vital problems of UIC in its key activities.

Railway transport can play a more important role which belongs to it justly in the international trade system and in ensuring mobility for people.

Development of container technologies and through logistics, “dry ports”, high-speed passenger transportation, information technologies on railways, integration of railways into the public transport systems of urban agglomerations, as well as many other modern approaches will make it possible for railways to take due place in the transport services market in the situation of stiff competition with other transport modes. It's within our power, if we plan and coordinate our actions.

Contribution to reaching these goals should be made through more active cooperation of UIC with other international organizations, UN structures in the first place, where the new transport policy is being outlined and thus the development prospects for transport systems are defined for the coming decades. And the voice of UIC on the multilateral level should become more significant. Obviously, the cooperation with leading international organizations for the benefit of railway business should bear a noticeably more dynamic character.

More active regional interaction is another key area of work. Regional assemblies of UIC have a tremendous development potential. We can offer to railways of different regions of the world a whole range of cooperation areas which will be interesting for everybody – safety and security issues, intermodal transportation, integration into logistics chains, international tourism etc. This can further find its continuation as new projects of UIC with a global status predetermined by the importance of tasks to be solved for every railway company in any region.

Dear Colleagues!

Main areas of my work on the post of UIC Chairman are stated in the conceptual document which you can access on the web site of our Organization.

I am ready to discuss with you all points of my Program, and ready to make amendments based on your proposals if it is of benefit for all UIC members.

In conclusion I would like again to express my hope for dynamic and fruitful cooperation with you!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Yakunin', written in a cursive style.

Vladimir Yakunin